

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

439A 601

Sanders JB

R

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Joe B. Sanders, Director, Pacific Operations
Division, Office of Test Operations, ALO

DATE: December 21, 1959

FROM : James A. Sugden, Office of Test Operations, ALO

James A. Sugden

SUBJECT: VANDENBERG - ENIWETOK PROPOSED MISSILE SHOTS

REEVES

SYMBOL: TE:JAS:2523

Luckett

Nobles

I was contacted by Lt Colonel Bill Martin, AFSWC, and invited to attend a SAC conducted meeting at Kirtland AFB, 0830 hours, December 18, 1959.

I learned that USAF (SAC) is planning a routine training ICBM demonstration utilizing the Atlas with conventional warhead. The Atlas would be fired from Vandenberg AFB, California, and be detonated within Eniwetok Atoll utilizing Mack Tower as GZ.

what yield

The planned launching dates are as follows:

- 12 January 1960
- 24 February 1960
- 12 April 1960
- 5 July 1960
- 2 August 1960
- 30 August 1960

To say the least, I was quite surprised and expressed immediate concern for the personnel residing at Eniwetok. I was assured that USAF was studying the situation but was of the opinion that accuracies of 1200 to 1500 ft could be maintained.

I was requested to furnish population forecasts for February to AFSWC to be cranked into USAF probability of kill studies. I expressed the opinion that a provision would have to be made to evacuate all of our personnel from the Atoll or some means of protection provided.

I also asked if this planned action had been coordinated with AEC Washington and CJTF SEVEN. They didn't believe that it had been.

(continued)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEWER DATE 1/10/74
2ND REVIEWER DATE 1/27/84
NAME: [Signature]
1. CLASSIFICATION
2. COORDINATE WITH
3. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
4. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OR THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEWER DATE 1/10/74
2ND REVIEWER DATE 1/27/84
NAME: [Signature]
1. CLASSIFICATION
2. COORDINATE WITH
3. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
4. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
5. OTHER (SPECIFY):

Encl 33

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Joe B. Sanders

-2-

December 21, 1959.

Also, I was requested to obtain an estimate from EG&G for them to furnish photographic coverage of the burst to an accuracy of plus or minus 600 ft and to provide necessary signaling to activate cameras either via hardwire or radio signal. The photographic coverage is to be 35 mm to 70 mm and from 10 to 48 frames per second. This last estimate to cover support of one shot sometime in February and to include necessary back-up. I will try to get this information to Colonel Martin by December 23.

I requested population to be supported and learned that about 12 USAF working types plus EG&G is all that we could expect. This was later modified in the meeting to allow for some VIP observers and a possibility of 2 helicopters with crews.

CC: Ray C. Emens, Chief, EBO
Hq AFSWC, KAFB, Attn: Lt Col Bill Martin

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~